

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

**Claim 4** has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 7. New Claim 15 includes the limitations of Claims 4 and 9. *Schisandra chinensis* is not listed in independent Claims 4 and 15.

There is no disclosure or suggestion in Newmark et al and JP '168 of the use of a substance capable of enhancing the expression level of Rho kinase or myosin light-chain kinase for a method of preventing aging of the skin or improving the skin in which the substance is a plant, a part of a plant, an extract of a plant, an extract of a part of a plant or a combination thereof, each plant being independently selected from the group consisting of *Althaeaofficinalis*, *Curcuma longa*, *Actinidia chinensis*, *Gentiana lutea*, *Crataeguscuneata*, *Rehmannia glutinosa*, *Syzygium aromaticum*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Rose canina*, *Petroselinium sativum*, *Hamamelisvirginiana*, *Asiasarum sieboldii*, *Thymus serpyllum*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Sophora flavescens*, *Cnidium officinale*, *Zizyphus jujuba*, *Citrus unshiu*, *Angelica acutiloba*, *Fucusvesiculosus*, *Tilia platyllos*, *Humulus lupulus*, *Citruslimon*, *Cassia obatusifolia*, *Magnolia obovata*, *Evodia rutaecarpa*, *Cornus officinalis*, *Atractylodes japonica*, *Digeneasimplex*, and mixtures thereof as claimed in **Claim 4**.

Even further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Newmark et al and JP '168 of the use of a substance capable of enhancing the expression level of Rho kinase or myosin light-chain kinase for a method of preventing aging of the skin or improving the skin in which the substance is a plant part selected from the group consisting of root, rhizome, or leaf for *Althaeaofficinalis*; rhizome for *Curcuma longa*; fruit for *Actinidia chinensis*; root or rhizome for *Gentiana lutea*; fruit for *Crataeguscuneata*; root for *Rehmannia glutinosa*; bud for *Syzygium aromaticum*; head flower for *Calendula officinalis*; fruit for *Rose canina*; leaf for

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*Petroselinium sativum*; leaf or bark for *Hamamelis virginiana*; root or rhizome for *Asiasarum sieboldii*; aerial part for *Thymus serpyllum*; aerial part for *Hypericum perforatum*; root for *Sophora flavescens*; rhizome for *Cnidium officinale*; fruit for *Zizyphus jujuba*; fruit skin for *Citrus unshiu*; root for *Angelica acutiloba*; whole plant for *Fucus vesiculosus*; flower or leaf for *Tilia platyllos*; female inflorescence for *Humulus lupulus*; fruit for *Citrus limon*; and the parts described in Japanese Pharmacopoeia for *Cassia obatusifolia*, *Magnolia obovata*, *Evodia rutaecarpa*, *Cornus officinalis*, *Atractylodes japonica*, and *Digeneasimplex*; as claimed in **Claim 15**.

Therefore, the rejections of Claims 4 and 7-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or of Claims 4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Newmark et al and the rejection of Claim 4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 2000-178168 are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The rejections of Claims 4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, is obviated by the amendment of Claim 4.

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This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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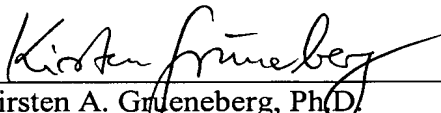
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